

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®  
Preliminary General Plan &  
Final EIR

Staff Recommended Changes



February 11, 2005

The following text changes to the Anza Borrego Draft General Plan and EIR are being proposed by the Department as part of the certification process for the Final EIR. These changes are subsequent to the changes shown in the December 2004 Preliminary General Plan/FEIR and do not substantially change the conclusions in the Preliminary General Plan/EIR but provide further clarification in conveying the original intent of the Preliminary General Plan. These changes were provided in response to public comment on the Preliminary General Plan/EIR."

**Page v; Section 2.1.3.7**

- Change to read:  
...TRANSPORTATION/UTILITY CORRIDORS...

**Page vi; Section 2.3.3 REGIONAL PLANNING INFLUENCES**

- add a new number and heading/revise headings:  

2.3.3.4	Landscape Linkages	
2.3.3.5	California Department of Transportation	
2.3.3.6	Utility Companies.....	2-96

**Page 2-8; Section 2.1.3.7**

- Change heading to read:  
*Transportation/Utility Corridors*
- add the following section after the last paragraph:

***Power***

*Easements for utility companies are located within the Park. There is an existing major electrical transmission line (69KV) that crosses the Park generally from west to east and extends north from Highway 78 to serve the community of Borrego Springs as well as ABDSP. This transmission line is operated by San Diego Gas & Electric and contains the "Narrows" substation south of State Highway 78. A connecting major transmission line extends to the east and is operated by the Imperial Irrigation District. There is a second 17-mile easement that is currently vacant that extends generally from the Narrows to Scissors Crossing (see Figure 6.6). Additionally, there are several lower voltage electrical distribution line easements that provide power to park facilities and other users.*

**Page 2-95; Section 2.3.3.3 California Department of Fish and Game**

- Add the following text:  
*Fish and Game also retains jurisdiction over issues within the Park that may affect State listed sensitive species and blue-line streams.*
- Change the order of ***California Department of Transportation*** and ***Landscape Linkages***

**2.3.3.5 California Department of Transportation**

- Change text to:  
*Caltrans develops transportation plans and specific design plans to provide improved roadway service to the public. Such planning efforts are incorporated into the transportation improvement plans sponsored by SANDAG & SCAG. Existing and potentially expanded highway facilities in ABDSP may adversely affect Park resources. It*

*has been documented that the biological connectivity of populations of female Bighorn are fragmented by developed roads.*

**add: 2.3.3.6 Utility Companies**

*Utility companies such as San Diego Gas & Electric and the Imperial Irrigation District have existing transmission lines through the Park. These companies have responsibility to address California's future need for additional electrical power, which is critical to the continued economic viability of the State. Anticipated electrical needs in Southern California will require the utility companies to evaluate proposals to expand the existing level of service. The location, operation, and construction of facilities in these utility corridors may adversely affect Park resources through fragmentation of the Park's vast desert landscapes and biological connectivity and possible destruction of paleontological and cultural resources. Reconciling the inherent conflicts between the future electrical needs of the State and the protection of the Park's resources will require the utility companies and the Department to work closely together in planning for the size and location of these future facilities.*

**Page 2-105; 2.4.4 ASTHETIC RESOURCE ISSUES**

- change the second bullet to read:
  - The visitor's sense of wilderness can be diminished by the sight of man-made features such as trails, roads, and utility transmission corridors forming artificial lines that slash across the textures and subtle lines of the desert. The degree to which such man-made features follow the land's natural contours and color affects the aesthetic nature of the visitor's experience.

**Page 3-9; Section 3.2.4.1**

- The following wording will be added to the end of the paragraph under Purpose and Intent:

*The bulk, scale and intensity of park facilities developed in the Information/Entrance zones will be constructed to be compatible with the Park vision.*

**Pages 3-10 and 3-12; Sections 3.2.4.2 & 3.2.4.3**

- The following wording will be added at the end of the Overview discussion under FUZ I and FUZ II:

*The bulk, scale and intensity of park facilities developed in this zone will be constructed to be compatible with the Park vision. Such facilities will incorporate aesthetically compatible design appropriate to each site location.*

**Page 3-15; 3.2.4.5 Wilderness Zone (WZ)**

- add/delete the following bold text to the existing paragraph.

*Purpose and Intent*

As stated in the PRC (5093.31),.... Boundaries for the proposed State Wilderness areas are **delineated so as not to include or** affect existing **designated** roadways. In addition, these boundaries do not **include the existing SDG&E utility easement and access in Grapevine Canyon.** Among other things...man-made features ~~such as utility corridors~~. The Wilderness Zone...

**Page 3-45; Section 3.3.1.8**

- Change to read:  
**GOAL Leadership-1** Act as a leader...providing *public services*, recreation ....

**Page 3-45; Section 3.3.1.8**

- add the following language to the end of **GUIDELINE Leadership 1f**  
*and public utilities such as SDG&E and IID.*

**Page 3-51; Section 3.3.1.11**

- Add a new Goal and two Guidelines

**GOAL - Operations-4:** *The department should work with local agencies, Caltrans, and utility companies to minimize the adverse impacts associated with developments.*

**GUIDELINE Operations-4a** *If local agencies, Caltrans, or utility companies propose new or expanded facilities in ABDSP, the Department should coordinate with them, consistent with the Management Zones delineated with the General plan, to minimize adverse impacts to the Park's resource and the visitor's experience by evaluating such things as: minimizing impacts from footings, examining elements of the structures that can be colored to match the surroundings, spacing the distance between facilities to be less obtrusive to vistas, abandoning old easements, removing old facilities, restoring old utility roads or scars from existing facilities, etc.*

**Page 3-56; Section 3.3.2.4 (Lucky 5 Ranch Area)**

- Change at the end of the first paragraph:

*The feasibility of placing an equestrian staging area and campground in this general area with access to the Pacific Crest Trail is being investigated. California State Parks is actively acquiring additional parcels close to the Lucky 5 Ranch and may propose potential locations in the Camping Management Plan. The Camping Management Plan will be subject to further review under CEQA.*

- Change Goal – Lucky 5 2 to read :

*Although this area is designated Backcountry and FUZ II, limit potential overnight use to avoid sensitive resource areas, including the southern parcel of the Lucky 5 Ranch acquisition. Development overall shall be kept to a minimum except to provide a campground, if feasible, and trail access.*

**Page 4-17; Section 4.5.3.7**

- The following sentence will be added at the end of the second paragraph:

*Recreational use of roads, trails, and camping in BLM areas indicate that recent closures on BLM property have adversely affected recreational opportunities.*